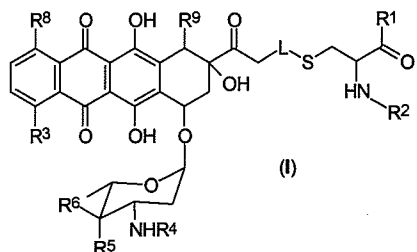
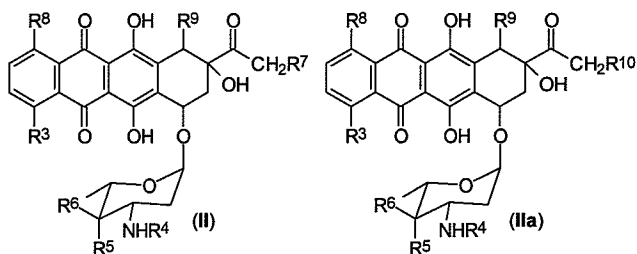


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

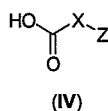
1. (Currently amended) Method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and intermediates thereof, comprising the steps of:



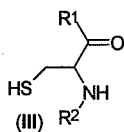
- a) halogenating a compound of formula (II), resulting in compound of formula (IIa),



- b) reacting a compound of formula (IIa) at its 14 position with the thiol moiety of a peptide of formula (III), optionally in the presence of a linker of formula (IV)



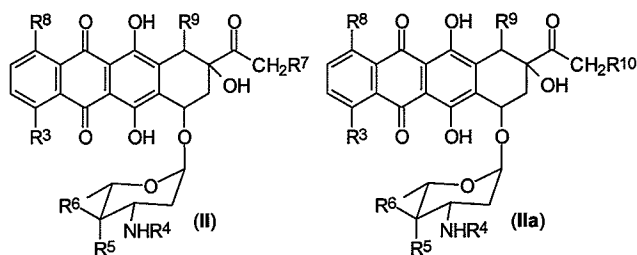
wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of α , β -unsaturated carbonyl, carboxy, carbamoyl and imidyl radical, and X represents a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of an alkyl, an aralkyl, an alkenyl, a cycloalkyl and an aryl radical ~~a suitable linker~~, to obtain said compound of formula (I),



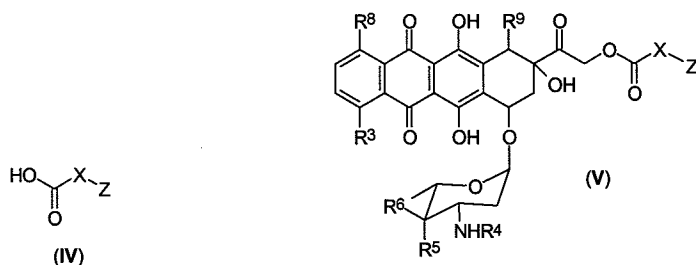
wherein R¹ represents OH, NH₂ or NH-peptide; R² represents H or -CO-peptide; R³ represents OCH₃, OH or H; R⁴ represents H, or COCF₃; R⁵ represents OH, O-

tetrahydropyranyl or H; R^6 represents OH or H; R^7 represents H, OH, $\text{OCO}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_3$ or $\text{OCOCH}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$; R^8 represents OH or H; R^9 represents OH or H; R^{10} represents a halogen and S is either directly linked to C or linked through L, wherein L is a suitable linker arm of the formula R-X-Y-, wherein R is $-\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$, Y is the product of Z upon reaction with the thiol moiety of compound of formula (III), wherein the peptide of formula (III) contains from 10 to 100 amino acids, and wherein the compound of formula (IIa) consists of a mixture comprising $R^{10} = \text{Cl}$ and $R^{10} = \text{Br}$.

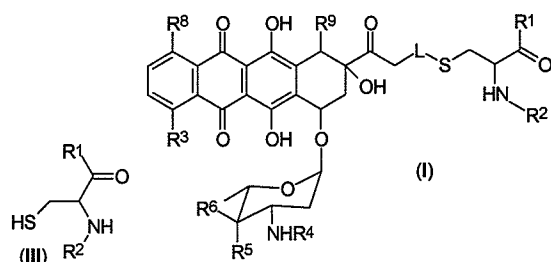
2. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
a) halogenating the compound of formula (II), resulting in compound of formula (IIa),



- b) reacting said compound of formula (IIa) at its 14 position with a linker of formula (IV) to obtain compound of formula (V), wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of α, β -unsaturated carbonyl, carboxy, carbamoyl and imidyl radical~~a functional group able to react with a thiol~~, and X represents a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of an alkyl, an aralkyl, an alkenyl, a cycloalkyl and an aryl radical



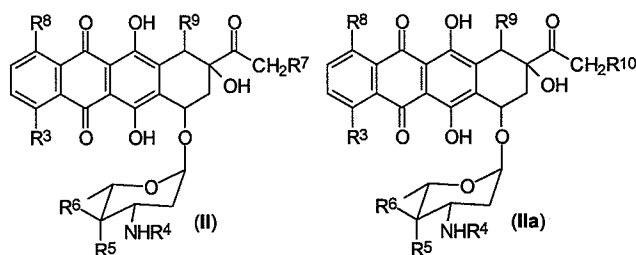
- c) coupling said compound of formula (V) with the thiol moiety of a peptide of formula (III) to obtain compound of formula (I),



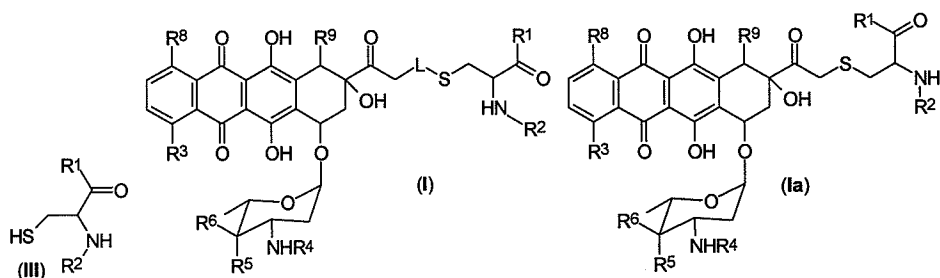
wherein L represents a linker arm of the formula R-X-Y-, wherein R is -O-C(=O)-, Y is the product of Z upon reaction with the thiol moiety of compound of formula (III) and X, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ have the same meaning as that defined above.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, comprising the step of

a) halogenating the compound of formula (II), resulting in compound of formula (IIa),



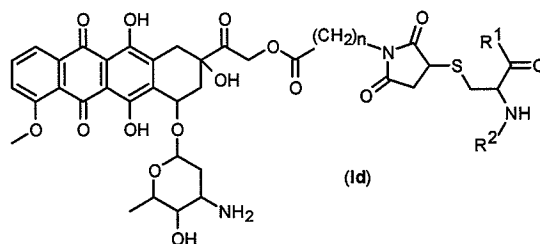
b) reacting the compound of formula (IIa) at its 14 position with the thiol moiety of a peptide of formula (III) to obtain compound of formula (I)



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ have the same meaning as that defined above and -L- is absent as represented by formula (Ia).

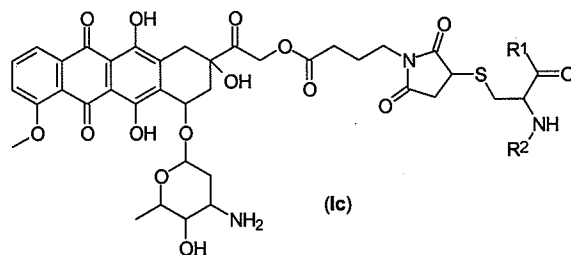
4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the halogenation step is done simultaneously with a ketalization step of the 13-ketone of the compound of formula (II) in the presence of a suitable alcohol.
6. (Original) Method according to claim 5, wherein the ketalization step is performed in the presence of a suitable orthoester.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently amended) Method according to claim ~~7~~1, wherein the functional group Z is a maleimidyl radical.
9. (Original) Method according to claim 2, wherein said linker of formula (IV) is maleimidobutyric acid.
10. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (II) is daunorubicin, carminomycin or idarubicin.
11. (Original) Method according to claim 10, wherein the compound of formula (II) is daunorubicin.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) Method according to claim ~~12~~1, wherein the peptide of formula (III) contains from 10 to 30 amino acids.
14. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is a compound of formula (Id)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meaning as that defined above and n is a number ranging from 2 to 10.

15. (Original) Method according to claim 14, wherein the compound of formula (Id) is a compound of formula (1c)

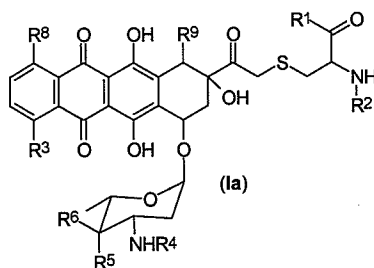


wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meaning as that defined above.

16. (Withdrawn) An intermediate obtained by the method of claim 1.

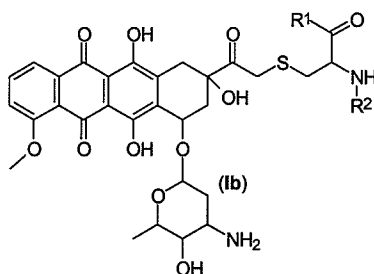
17. (Withdrawn) A compound obtained by the method of claim 1.

18. (Withdrawn) A compound having the formula (Ia),



wherein R^3 represents OCH_3 , OH or H , R^4 represents H or $COCF_3$, R^5 represents OH , O -tetrahydropyranyl or H , R^6 represents OH or H , R^8 represents OH or H , R^9 represents OH or H ; R^1 represents OH , NH_2 or NH -peptide and R^2 represents H or $-CO$ -peptide.

19. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 18, wherein R^3 represents OCH_3 , OH or H, R^4 represents H, R^5 represents OH, O-tetrahydropyranyl or H, R^6 represents OH or H, R^8 is H, R^9 is H; R^1 represents OH, NH_2 or NH-peptide and R^2 represents H or $-CO$ -peptide.
20. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 19, wherein R^3 represents OCH_3 , OH or H, R^4 is H, R^5 is OH, R^6 is H, R^8 is H, R^9 is H; R^1 represents OH, NH_2 or NH-peptide and R^2 represents H or $-CO$ -peptide.
21. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 20, having the formula (Ib),



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meaning as that defined above.

22. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 18, wherein said compound contains from 1 to 100 amino acids.
23. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 22, wherein said compound contains from 10 to 30 amino acids.
24. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutical carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 18.
25. (Canceled)

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26. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a tumor which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 18 to a patient in need thereof.
27. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing an antitumor agent which comprises using the compound according to claim 16 as a precursor.
28. (Withdrawn) A method of treating cancer which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to claim 17 to a patient in need thereof.